

DEANNA ALEXANDER

MILWAUKEE COUNTY SUPERVISOR



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Dear Neighbors,

Fall 2017

Congresswoman Barbara Jordan once said, "What the people want is very simple. They want an America as good as its promise." I believe that to be quite a true statement and we must not forget that freedom from government is just as important as the many services that it can provide. I have worked hard to stand tall on your behalf, cooperating with others to pass good policies that help Milwaukee County, while recognizing when government starts down the wrong direction.

Similarly, President Ronald Reagan said, "Government's first duty is to protect the people, not run their lives." It is a careful balance to make good oversight and spending decisions on behalf of an entire community and I am honored to be part of such important efforts.

There is always work to be done and I look forward to discussing the important issues that face our community and continuing to work diligently toward building a better Milwaukee County! Thank you for your continued support and for taking the time to read this update. Please reach out if I can ever be of service to you.

Kindly,

Deanna Alexander

Clockwise from top right: 1. Sup. Alexander supported reconfirming Héctor Colón as Director of DHHS and had hoped to retain him as a key leader. We congratulate Mr. Colón on joining Lutheran Social Services as President and CEO. 2. Holly Davis and Sup. Alexander joined Chef Bennie Smith of Daddy's restaurant to celebrate the new Memory Café. 3. Sup. Alexander talks with Milwaukee County residents at the Annual Budget Hearing. 4. Sup. Alexander with State Representative David Crowley at a community meeting with the Milwaukee Police Department.



2018 Budget Overview

- Each year Milwaukee County must create a budget for the following calendar year. The process begins in May when department directors begin presenting their budget requests to the County Executive, who then presents his consolidated recommended budget to the County Board and the public in September. In October, the County Board edits and amends the recommended budget, the County Executive vetoes any changes found inadvisable, and the County Board determines whether to override the vetoes and continue on with the changes, or to heed the advice, either way, finishing the budget in November.
- For 2018, the County Executive proposed a \$1.1 Billion “cost-to-continue” budget that offers a few enhanced services but primarily seeks to identify new funding so that services are not cut:
 - ♦ Doubling the new \$30/year wheel tax to \$60/year. When registering their vehicles to obtain license plate stickers, City of Milwaukee residents would have to pay \$75 to the State of WI, \$20 to the City of Milwaukee, and \$60 to Milwaukee County for a total of \$155.
 - ♦ Raising bus transit fares by \$0.25 per person. There are 405 buses in the fleet and 33,065,000 passenger rides per year.
 - ♦ Raising Zoo admission by \$1.25 per person. 1,325,000 people visit the 435 species of animals at the zoo each year.
 - ♦ Gaining new revenue by charging for parking in some parks and using naming rights to fund parks operations.
 - ♦ Aiding in addressing the opioid epidemic (drug abuse crisis) by investing \$1.1M in drug treatment programs, and a special machine for the Medical Examiner's office to use during autopsies for testing for the presence of drugs. In 2011 there were 139 opioid deaths in Milwaukee County; we are unfortunately on track to have 318 opioid deaths in Milwaukee County by the end of 2017, or nearly one per day.



Supervisor Alexander met with residents at a town hall meeting at the Hmong-American Peace Academy.



Supervisor Alexander held a town hall meeting in October at the Granville Lutheran School.

- ♦ Total Milwaukee County Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Positions: 4,259. This is 134 positions fewer than in 2017 and 1,198 positions fewer than in 2010.
- As the final version of this paper newsletter went to print, the Milwaukee County Board was still in the budget deliberation process. This electronic newsletter has been updated to provide the final effects of that process.
 - ♦ Supervisor Alexander agreed that the 70%+ of Milwaukeeans that voted “No Wheel Tax” in the 2017 Spring referendum question were right and that the Board should amend the budget to remove the wheel tax increase.
 - ♦ The Board's challenge was to find a way to both offset the \$15M needed to avoid the wheel tax increase and to agree upon the spending priorities. For example, cut bus routes or courthouse security?
 - ♦ Chairman Lipscomb offered a plan that called for across-the-board cuts to nearly every county department, with no prioritization, risking cutting law enforcement, public safety, child support, bus routes, homeless shelters, and parks services, while allowing funding for expensive, non-essential programs to continue.
 - ♦ Supervisor Alexander offered a plan that called for prioritized cuts to some county departments, ensuring funding for public safety, child support, and homeless shelters; saving bus routes and preserving parks projects, while refusing to raise the wheel tax and still taxing the public less property taxes than Lipscomb's plan.
 - ♦ The County Board refused to debate this plan, only debated the Lipscomb plan, and passed it into the 2018 County Budget. Supervisors Alexander, Sebring, and Weishan voted against the final County Budget priorities.

Legislation and Policy Written or Sponsored by Supervisor Alexander

- An ordinance requiring that the **Vehicle Registration Fee Program (Wheel Tax)** be put up for a reauthorization vote each year, rather than implemented upon the taxpayers without a current vote. This helps you hold elected officials accountable. (File 17-591)
- A resolution seeking to abandon the current practice of electing a County Board Chairperson by a vote of elected officials, and to instead create a county-wide “at-large” seat for the County Board (either in place of one of the current Supervisory seats, or in addition to the current seats) at the time the County is next redistricted, and for such seat **to be elected on a county-wide basis**, and to serve as the Chairperson of the County Board by election by the voters. (File 17-609)
- A resolution recognizing the importance of “trauma-informed” public systems, and advising beginning a practice of **referring to our young people as “children” and “youth” rather than as “juveniles” and “delinquents,”** and moving toward person-focused treatments and services that essentially stop asking the go-nowhere question of “What is wrong with you?” and instead focus on asking the truly meaningful question, “What has happened to you?” so that we may serve families better. (File 17-601)
- A resolution recognizing the month of October of each year as **Bullying Prevention Month**. (File 17-582)
- A resolution encouraging the **protection of the Sanctuary Woods land parcel** by designating it as parkland. (File 17-453)
- A resolution creating a policy for the Milwaukee County Jail, House of Correction, and Juvenile Justice Center that generally **prohibits the use of restraints around the waist of a pregnant woman’s abdomen**, placing pregnant women



Supervisor Alexander speaking about proposed legislation during a full meeting of the Milwaukee County Board.

in solitary confinement, or using leg shackles to restrain a pregnant woman during labor and childbirth. (File 17-523)

- A resolution requesting municipalities to **reimburse Milwaukee County for prisoners** sent to Milwaukee County Jail and House of Correction for municipal violations. (File 17-268)
- A resolution requesting a study on the feasibility of **transitioning Milwaukee County away from operating its own pension plan for employees**. Milwaukee County has experienced too many recurring pension calculation errors. It has been frustrating and embarrassing to have the pension system continuously operate with new notices of multi-million dollar mistakes coming out every year. It is time to convert our employees over to a different retirement plan option that they can actually rely on. (File 17-266)
- An ordinance codifying state directives to **cut the salaries of Milwaukee County Supervisors** from “Full-time” to “Part-time.” The Milwaukee County Board had been the only such group out of 72 County Boards in the state, to still receive full-time pay for what some saw as a part-time meeting schedule. Each board member, including **Supervisor Alexander, accepted a 50% pay cut.** (15-705)
- A resolution creating a policy that upon layoff, a Milwaukee County employee may receive **a letter from Human Resources documenting their employment** with Milwaukee County. This had been a problem for some former employees, laid off by the County when their positions were eliminated, and they had an unreasonable amount of trouble getting evidence from the County of the nature of their employment and their start and end dates for reference to prospective new employers. (File 16-380)
- A resolution to reduce and **limit the financial damage** done to the Milwaukee County Transit System by the GO Pass, the “free bus pass” program which was previously created by the County Board’s majority despite warnings that it would cost taxpayers millions of dollars to implement. (File 16-364)

Volunteers Needed

We are continually looking for qualified candidates to volunteer to serve on boards and commissions that oversee a large variety of subjects and make wide-ranging decisions, or give advice affecting the day to day lives of Milwaukee County residents. For example:

- Aging & Disability Resource Center Governing Board
- Airport Noise Advisory Commission
- EMS Council
- Ethics Board
- Marcus Center Board of Directors
- Milwaukee County Historical Society Board of Directors
- and many others...

If you wish to apply to a board or commission please contact the County Executive’s office at (414) 278-4212.

Grow Hope as a Kid Hero!

Did you know there are about 2,000 children in foster care in Milwaukee County? As many as 100 children, from infants to 17-year-olds, are removed from their homes each month because they are not safe. We are in great need of foster homes for youth needing protection from abuse and neglect.

Milwaukee County needs foster parents willing to be trained in caring for children of all ages with special needs such as living with childhood diabetes, or living with a tracheostomy (breathing tube). Training is provided at no cost to you and all medical expenses for the children are paid for by the state.

There is a special need for foster homes to help with teens, who too often "age out" of foster care, having to face the world on their own. Teenagers desire someone who can provide a stable environment and who truly cares about their well-being and future. They need someone like you to be a positive role model.

Could you or someone you know help our community give hope to these children? For more information, contact one of Milwaukee County's two foster care agencies:

SaintA

(855) GROW-HOPE (855-476-9467)
or GrowHope.net

**Children's Hospital
of Wisconsin**

(414) KID-HERO (414-543-4376)



Be an Organ Donor!



Supervisor Alexander is pictured with Municipal Judges JoAnn Eiring and Derek Mosley. The Milwaukee County Board presented a citation to them at its September meeting for their fearless advocacy of organ donation.



In September, our friend and municipal judge, Derek Mosley, came to visit the County Board and share his medical miracle story with us. He told of how he was going through kidney dialysis for 10 hours each day just to function and was entirely dependent upon finding an organ donor. He was one of the lucky few, because another local judge, JoAnn Eiring, discovered she was a match. I want to share with you what we learned from their experience as an organ donor, and organ recipient:

- There are more than 116,000 people waiting for a life-saving transplant. A name is added to the national transplant waiting list every 10 minutes.
- Every day 22 people die from the lack of available organs for transplant. Half of the people waiting for a kidney transplant are people of color.
- One deceased donor can save up to eight lives through organ donation and can save and enhance more than 75 lives through the lifesaving and healing gift of tissue donation.
- Organs that can be donated after death are the heart, liver, kidneys, lungs, pancreas and small intestines and tissues include corneas, skin, veins, heart valves, tendons, ligaments and bones.
- A healthy person can become a 'living donor' by donating a kidney or a part of the liver. Learn more about living donation at DonateLifeWisconsin.org.
- About 5,000 living donations occur each year.
- One in four donors is not biologically related to the recipient.
- Blood and bone marrow are also desperately needed. Check out BeTheMatch.org to learn more about the national marrow registry.
- Even if you have an organ donor dot on your driver's license or state ID, you may not be legally registered as an organ, tissue and eye donor. To authorize your donation decision, say YES to donation at the DMV or register online right now at DonateLifeWisconsin.org.

Fall 2017 Survey: Express Your Views

Instructions: Please use your initials to mark any statement you agree with. If you disagree with a statement, write "NO" or simply leave it blank. If there is a second person in the home also completing the survey, simply respond on the same form here, marking responses separately.

<input type="checkbox"/> I own my home.	<input type="checkbox"/> My car has been broken into, vandalized, or stolen in the past three years.
<input type="checkbox"/> I rent my home.	<input type="checkbox"/> Opioid addiction (heroin / fentanyl / oxycodone) has affected someone close to me.
<input type="checkbox"/> I have access to a car.	<input type="checkbox"/> I am or have been a Milwaukee County employee.
<input type="checkbox"/> I depend on the bus.	<input type="checkbox"/> I have plans to leave Milwaukee due to dissatisfaction with government, policies, or taxes.
<input type="checkbox"/> Property taxes are too high.	<input type="checkbox"/> I like living in Milwaukee and intend to stay.
<input type="checkbox"/> I live on a fixed income.	<input type="checkbox"/> I also want to tell Supervisor Alexander: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Someone in my household needs help finding employment.	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> I support increasing wheel taxes to prevent cuts to government services.	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> I want the wheel tax to be lowered while we trim waste and cut government expenses, even if it is uncomfortable.	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> I support raising sales taxes.	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Milwaukee County provides a good value for my tax dollars.	Name (1st Person): _____
<input type="checkbox"/> I have visited the Zoo in the last five years.	Email: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> I would support allowing a 501(c)3 Non-Profit Charitable Organization such as the Zoological Society to operate the Milwaukee County Zoo.	Name (2nd Person): _____
	Email: _____

To Submit: Please mail to Deanna Alexander, Milwaukee County Supervisor, 901 N. 9th St. #201, Milwaukee, WI 53233
Alternately, you can fill out this survey online at: www.surveymonkey.com/r/QRS8NT3



2018 SPRING ELECTIONS INFORMATION

Spring Primary – Tuesday, February 20, 2018

Spring General Election – Tuesday, April 3, 2018

As of the printing of this newsletter, the law states that each voter will need to provide a Photo ID. If you do not have a Photo ID, you can obtain one for voting purposes for NO DIRECT COST TO YOU at our local DMV Center - 7301 W. Mill Rd., open Mon-Fri 8:30 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. & Sat. 8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. For questions about voting or what to bring with you to the DMV to obtain a free ID, please call the Milwaukee County Election Commission at 278-4060. If you have any problems obtaining a Photo ID to vote, please contact Supervisor Alexander's office and we will be glad to aid you.



Offices open for election on the 2018 spring ballot include:

- State Supreme Court Justice
- Circuit Court Judges (Branches 8, 17, 20, 23, 28, 38, 39, 43)
(Each branch is county-wide and refers to the judicial seat that is up for election)
- County Board Supervisors (All Districts)

Visit **BringIt.Wisconsin.gov** online for more info on Voter ID and visit **MyVoteWI.gov** to view your ballot before going to vote! To receive text alerts, text **MKE VOTE** to **468311**.



Patricia Watson, Tracey Dent, Deanna Alexander, and Linda Lee, Executive Director of Generations Against Bullying, spoke to the Health and Human Needs Committee about the importance of Bullying Awareness and Prevention.

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Visioning Session on Youth (Re)Engagement

The Milwaukee County Office on African American Affairs invites you to a Visioning Session on Youth (Re)Engagement – **Tuesday December 12, 2017, 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. at the McGovern Park Senior Center, 4500 W. Custer Ave.** This session will include an initial briefing on the topic, small group discussions, and allow you to help advise the office for recommendations to changes in programs and laws that will benefit the African American community. Learn more at www.County.Milwaukee.gov/OAAA.

Key Government Contacts

COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Supervisor Deanna Alexander 278-4259
County Executive 278-4211
Child Support..... 615-2593
Office For Persons With Disabilities 278-3932
Parks 257-7275
Sheriff (non-emergency)..... 226-7000
Transit..... 344-6711
Veterans Services 266-1234

CITY GOVERNMENT

EMERGENCY 9-1-1
City of Milwaukee 286-CITY (2489)
(Street lights, potholes, garbage, litter)
Fire (non-emergency) 286-8948
Police (non-emergency) 933-4444

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Personal crisis or disaster? Call 2-1-1
Report child abuse or neglect..... 220-SAFE (7233)
Looking for work? EmployMilwaukee.org
Home Energy Assistance 270-4653

Supervisor Alexander invites you to enjoy these FREE County attractions:



MILWAUKEE ART MUSEUM

Free the first Thursday of every month for all visitors.

Visit www.mam.org for more information.



MILWAUKEE PUBLIC MUSEUM

Free the first Thursday of every month. County residents get \$2 off every day.

Visit www.mpm.edu for more info and more free days.



MITCHELL PARK DOMES

Free on Mondays from 9 a.m. until Noon for County residents. Excludes holidays.

Visit www.milwaueedomes.org for more information.



MILWAUKEE COUNTY ZOO

Free Days, 2017: 12/2. 2018: 1/6, 2/3, 3/3, 10/6, 11/3, 12/1. Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day & New Year's Day.

Visit www.milwaukeezoo.org for more information.